Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika
Far North District Council

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Proposal
Solid Waste Strategy 2025-2050

1. Why We Need a Long-Term Waste Strategy

When Council reviewed our current Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), Council realised that to truly make a difference in the way we manage our waste, our district needed more than just short-term planning.

That's why at the 4 May 2023 Council meeting; Council made the decision to develop two key documents:

1. A new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP); and
2. A visionary 25-year Solid Waste Strategy (SWS)

Together, along with the workplan contained in the WMMPs and statutory Waste Assessments, these will form our district's Waste Strategic Framework and provide us with a clear roadmap to reduce waste, improve recycling, and protect our beautiful Far North environment for generations to come.

Diagram 1: FNDC Waste Strategic Framework

2. Collaborative Approach

This isn't just a Council document- it has been shaped and developed by members representing our communities:

- Local Iwi and hapū representative
- Community members
- Waste industry experts
- Health professionals
- Legal Advisors; and
- Council staff with subject matter expertise

Working together in the Solid Waste Rōpū Mahi (Working Group), they have created the SWS to:

- Reflect Te Ao Māori perspectives
- Incorporate specialist knowledge
- Reflect and acknowledge community priorities for waste management issues
- Align the SWS to Council's broader strategic goals and objectives found in Far North 2100.

3. Proposal

Council is taking proactive steps to manage waste smarter and more sustainably by proposing a 25-year Solid Waste Strategy to:

- Provide the 'big picture' vision to guide future WMMPs
- Ensures consistent progress towards the SWS vision and our *Far North 2100* objectives
- Helps transition us all towards building a circular future where nothing is wasted, and everything has value.

3 Reasons for the proposal

When Council reviewed our current WMMP, Council realised that our district needed a long-term approach to achieve our communities waste treatment aspirations. After considering the practicable options presented at the Council 4 May 2023 Council meeting (report found here) Council directed staff to develop a draft SWS under its powers granted by the Local Government Act 2002.

4 Analysis of the reasonably practicable options

Council chose **option 1.**

The advantages and disadvantages of the options are summarised in the following table.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages

1. Adopt the public consultation proposal outlined in Attachment 1 and endorse the engagement plan found in Attachment 2	• The proposed Solid Waste Strategy fulfils Councils directives given at the 4 May 2023 Council meeting
	• Aligns with Council's
	  • *Far North 2100* objectives
	  • Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 vision
		• None identified.

	• Government Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy 2025 • Ensures Council can strategically plan and implement the Solid Waste Strategy over time • The Solid Waste Strategy proposal ensures that Council can plan strategically about how to fund and resource this and future Waste Management and Minimisation Plans • Provides an opportunity to educate our communities about how the Solid Waste Strategy will work with each Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and the Waste Strategic Framework.	
2. **Do not make the Solid Waste Strategy**	• None identified.	• Does not align with Council's previous decisions • Disadvantages Council's ability to effectively plan the long-term investment and behavioural changes required to meet National Waste management and minimisation directions • Does not align to Council's *Far North 2100* objectives and vision • Does not align with Council's current climate change strategy and objectives • Does not reflect Council's best use of resources. • Public will not know what Council's long-term objectives for waste treatment within the district is.

4. We want to hear from you

Council must decide:

- whether or not to adopt the Solid Waste Strategy, and
- whether they need to make changes before making that decision.

Your feedback will help Council to make those decisions with confidence.

The Council encourages any person or organisation affected by or having an interest in the Solid Waste Strategy to present their views on the proposal and or draft Solid Waste Strategy to the Council by making a submission.

5. How to give your views on the proposal

You can make a submission by using any of the following methods:

- online at the Council's website www.fndc.govt.nz/have-your-say
- email your submission to submissions@fndc.govt.nz
- drop-off your submission at any Council service centre or library, details of their locations and opening times are listed at https://www.fndc.govt.nz/Council/Contact-council or you can get that information by phoning the Council on 0800 920 029
- post your submission to: Strategy and Policy Team, Far North District Council, Private Bag 752, Kaikohe 0440

Please include your full name and email address or postal address in your submission if you want:

- the Council to acknowledge receipt of your submission

Any submissions that are out of scope, offensive, inappropriate, or late may not be accepted by the Council. You will be notified if your submission is not accepted and, where appropriate, invited to resubmit.

Privacy statement – Please be aware, any submissions that are made on the draft Solid Waste Strategy become part of the public consultation process. As such, all submissions, any summaries of submissions, and any documents provided with your submission, are copied and made available to the Council's governing body as well as the public. Any personal information included with a submission such as your name is treated as part of the submission and will also be released publicly. Your submission and any personal information that you supply such as your name will not be treated as confidential unless you specifically request it in your submission.

Te Kaunihera
o Te Hiku o te Ika
Far North District Council

SOLID WASTE STRATEGY

2025–2050

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

The Far North District Council (FNDC) is dedicated to sustainable waste management and minimising environmental impacts to water, land, air and sea within our district. This Solid Waste Strategy (SWS) sets out a 25-year plan to transition the district towards a circular economy, aligning with the Aotearoa New Zealand Waste Strategy.

The SWS will be delivered through four consecutive six-year Waste Management and Minimisation Plans (WMMP), each informed by detailed Waste Assessments. It prioritises waste reduction, resource recovery, and community engagement to achieve a district where waste is minimised, resources are valued, and the environment is protected.

Key challenges addressed in the SWS include illegal dumping, decreasing waste to landfill, and the need for improved recycling infrastructure. It sets ambitious goals to reduce waste, enhance resource recovery, and foster a local circular economy, with specific actions outlined in the first WMMP.

Strategic and Legislative Framework

This SWS is underpinned by a robust strategic and legislative framework that aligns national priorities with local needs and challenges. This framework ensures FNDC meets its statutory obligations while leading the district towards a sustainable, low-emissions, and low-waste future. The following outlines the relevant legislation and framework:

Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA)

This legislation requires all Territorial Authorities to actively promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation. This SWS directly addresses this obligation, setting clear goals to reduce waste, promote resource recovery, and support the transition to a circular economy.

Waste Minimisation (Waste Disposal Levy) Amendment Act 2004

A partial review of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 was completed in June 2024 resulting in changes to the collection and application of the Waste Disposal Levy. The application of the Waste Disposal Levy has been extended to provide for the remediation of contaminated sites and broader environmental initiatives, in addition to waste minimisation activities. A further, more comprehensive review is anticipated in future.

Further increases to the waste disposal levy rate were introduced across different classes of landfills.

From its original rate of $10/tonne from 2009 to 2020, this is both a significant expense for waste disposal and creates a significant fund for waste minimisation infrastructure and activities. Continued increases in the cost of disposal to landfill will further increase demand for diversion services and make investment proposals for diversion infrastructure more viable.

Half of the waste levy money collected is paid to local governments to fund waste minimisation projects, with the other half managed by Ministry of Environment (MfE) to cover their administrative costs and the remainder forming the contestable Waste Minimisation Fund. Councils can expect to see an increase in the amount of waste levy funding available over the next few years.

Alignment with the *Government's waste and resource efficiency strategy*

The *Government's waste and resource efficiency strategy* (GWRES) replaces *Te Rautaki Para* / *New Zealand Waste Strategy* adopted by the previous government in 2023. While the high-level strategy direction remains driven by circular economy principles, targeting low emissions, and a low-waste society the reduction targets set out in Te Rautaki Para / New Zealand Waste Strategy have been removed. The FNDC SWS reflects the outcomes of the GWRES, adopting principles such as waste prevention, resource recovery, and reducing environmental impacts to contribute meaningfully to New Zealand's sustainability goals.

Waste Hierarchy

Circular economy principles build on a tool known as the 'waste hierarchy' (Diagram 1). This tool illustrates the best and least favoured options to reduce and manage waste. Many versions exist of the waste hierarchy; some are very technical. The version below is included in the Te Rautaki Para / New Zealand Waste Strategy and continues to remain relevant with the GWRES.

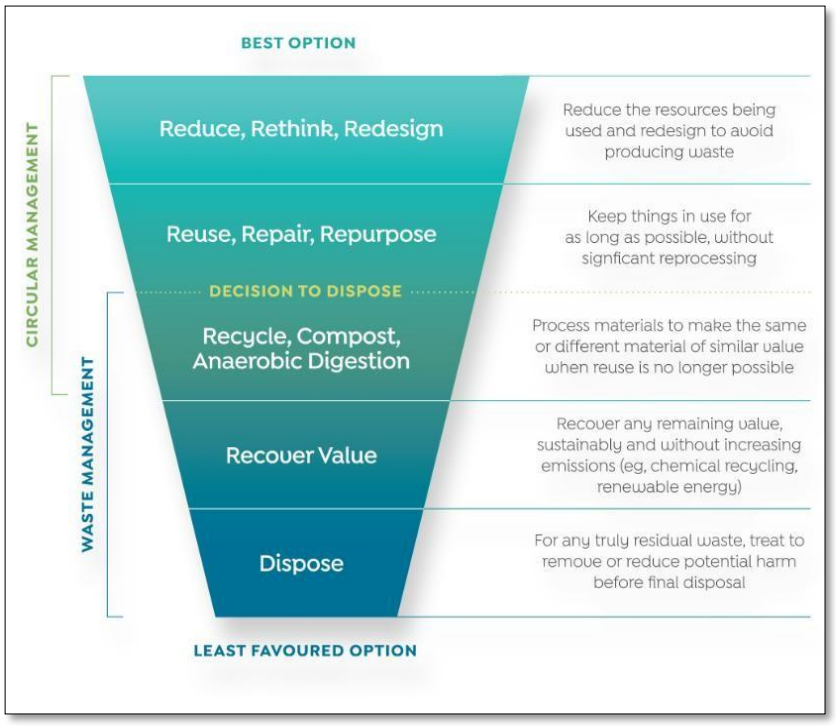


Diagram 1: Waste hierarchy

In developing an effective SWS for the Far North, circular economy principles play a foundational role. The 'waste hierarchy' refers to the idea that reducing, reusing, recycling

and recovering waste is preferable to disposal. The ‘waste hierarchy model’ serves as a guiding tool to prioritise actions that effectively reduce, reuse, and manage waste by highlighting the most beneficial and least desirable practices for waste management.

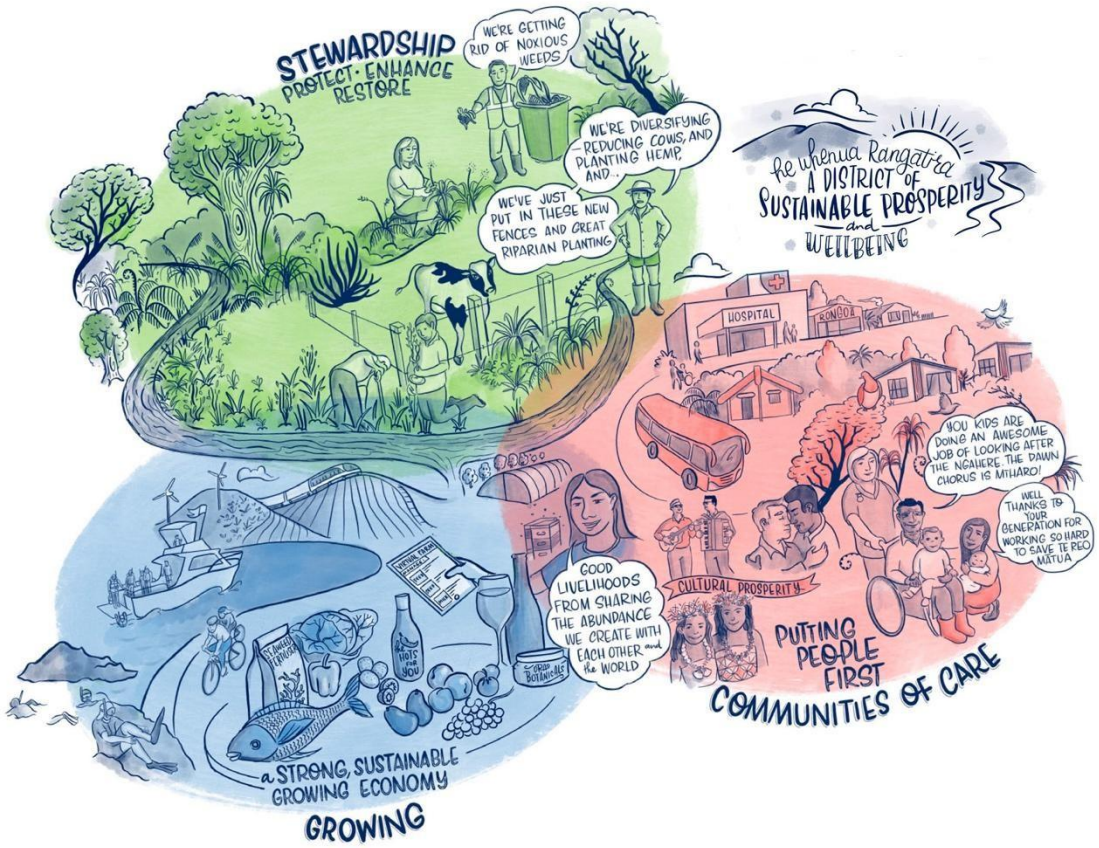
Far North 2100

Adopted by FNDC in November 2021, Far North 2100 captures the long-term vision for FNDC, beyond the Long-Term Plan (LTP) horizon. It forms the blueprint for the future direction of the district. There are five ‘drivers of change’ in the vision:

1. Putting the wellbeing of the communities and people first.
2. Promoting resilient economic growth for sustainable prosperity.
3. Active response to climate change.
4. Connecting people, businesses and places.
5. Protect the natural environment for future generations.

More specifically in the waste context, these drivers mean the importance for opportunities not just for local employment, but also for the development of local skills and for growth in local businesses.

These drivers all apply to the solid waste activity and have been important considerations in determining the strategic objectives for the present and future WMMPs.



Long Term Plan 2021–31 (LTP)

FNDC's LTP for 2021–31 identifies FNDC's vision to promote FNDC as a district of sustainable prosperity and well-being. At the high level there are six strategic priorities, supporting six community outcomes. Between them, these support the four aspects of community wellbeing in the Local Government Act 2002.

The Community Outcomes shown in italics are identified as being the most directly impacted by the solid waste activity and its potential to negatively affect air, land and water.

Economic	
Strategic priorities: • Better asset management • Address affordability	**Community outcomes**: • *Proud, vibrant communities* • Prosperous communities supported by a sustainable economy
Cultural	
Strategic priorities: • Deepen our sense of place and connection	**Community outcomes**: • We embrace and celebrate our unique culture and heritage and value it as a source of enduring pride
Environmental	
Strategic priorities: • Adapt to climate change • Protect our water supply	**Community outcomes**: • *A wisely managed and treasured environment that recognises the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki*
Social	

Strategic priorities: • Enable sustainable economic development	**Community outcomes**: • *Communities that are healthy, sage, connected and sustainable* • Connected communities that are prepared for the unexpected

Table 1: LTP Strategic priorities and community outcomes

FNDC's Role in Waste Management

FNDC plays a pivotal role in shaping and delivering effective waste management and minimisation across districts. Responsibilities include:

Strategic Leadership and Planning
FNDC sets the long-term vision for waste management in the district by aligning local goals with national strategies, such as the GWRES. This involves developing and implementing policies and plans that drive waste reduction and resource recovery.

Service Delivery and Infrastructure Management
FNDC oversees the provision of essential waste services, transfer stations, and community recycling facilities. FNDC also supports the development and maintenance of infrastructure required to meet evolving waste management needs. **Education and Community Engagement**

FNDC fosters a culture of sustainability by educating and empowering residents, businesses, and community groups to adopt waste minimisation practices. Initiatives include workshops, and partnerships with local schools and organisations.

Monitoring and Enforcement
FNDC develops local bylaws and exercises its enforcement powers under various legislation such as the Local Government Act 2002, Litter Act 1979 and Health Act 1956 to control harmful effects of inappropriately disposed waste.

Collaboration and Partnership Building
FNDC works closely with iwi, hapū, community organisations, private waste companies, neighbouring councils, and national agencies to ensure cohesive efforts toward waste minimisation. Collaboration enhances access to resources, funding opportunities, and innovative solutions. Collaboration and partnering recognises that FNDC does not need to be the only provider of waste services nor the only developer of waste infrastructure, but rather it can enable development of these services and infrastructure by others.

By bringing these roles together, the FNDC aims to create a waste management system that works for everyone. This means meeting legal requirements while also protecting our environment, celebrating our community's unique culture, and supporting local values. Our goal is to ensure that waste is managed sustainably and aligns to our objectives set out in the 80-year strategy for our District – A sustainable environment, economic prosperity and caring communities.

Strategic Approach

This strategy is a guide for both the FNDC and the wider district. For the FNDC, it shapes waste management, resource recovery initiatives, and infrastructure planning. For the broader community, it supports investment decisions, sustainable practices, and a collective responsibility to create a low-emissions, low-waste society by 2050.

The FNDC is committed to a long-term approach to waste management by implementing a 25-year SWS, which will guide four consecutive WMMPs.

Each WMMP will be informed by Waste Assessments conducted before the development of each plan. These assessments will provide crucial feedback on the progress made and any changes to the context within which waste services are provided (e.g. legislative change, changing community demand for services). The Waste Assessment informing the first WMMP was completed in 2023.

Each WMMP will detail the specific activities to be undertaken over its six-year duration, to achieve the objectives of the strategy. These activities will also be integrated into long-term and annual plans to ensure adequate resources are available to meet the targets outlined in each WMMP and the goals and objectives of the strategy.

Diagram 2: FNDCs Waste Strategic Framework

Purpose

The primary purpose of this SWS is to provide a long-term framework for sustainable waste management in the Far North District. It aims to guide decision-making, resource allocation,

and community action to minimise waste, maximise resource recovery, and protect the environment.

Vision

The vision for this SWS is:

This vision for the SWS aligns with the vision in the Far North District Council's Long-Term Plan and the Far North's strategic 80-year strategy for the district- *Far North 2100*. This vision was developed through extensive community engagement during 2014 and 2015, where more than 1,100 residents contributed to shaping the district's future.

He Whenua Rangatira – *a district of sustainable prosperity and wellbeing* – embodies the community's values and aspirations, and the Solid Waste Strategy serves as a practical step towards realising this vision. By promoting sustainable waste management, reducing emissions, and embracing the principles of a circular economy, the strategy supports the broader goal of a thriving, resilient, and sustainable Far North District.

Stakeholder Engagement

Far North Resident's Vision of Solid Waste Management

In 2023, a public survey gathered valuable insights into the community's perspectives on waste minimisation in the Far North. Residents were invited to envision the Far North in 2050 and share their ideas on how waste should be managed.

The survey responses revealed a strong community desire for sustainable waste practices, focusing on reducing waste, increasing recycling, and advancing a circular economy. The key themes identified include:

Composting of Food Scraps and Organics: Support for systems to divert organic waste from landfills through composting initiatives.

Increased Availability of Reuse and Recycling Facilities: A demand for accessible and convenient facilities to encourage resource recovery.

Green Waste Management: Turning green waste into compost or mulch to promote sustainable land use.

Accessible Kerbside Collection: Ensuring kerbside collection services are available and meet community needs.

Banning Single-Use Plastics: A strong call to eliminate single-use plastics to reduce waste and environmental impact.

Embracing a Circular Economy: A shift towards a model that prioritises waste prevention, resource recovery, and sustainable practices.

These community-driven insights highlight the need for a future-focused approach that reflects the district's aspirations for a low-waste, sustainable Far North.

Solid Waste Rōpū Mahi (Working Group)

The Solid Waste Rōpū Mahi (Working Group) has played a pivotal role in developing this SWS and the associated WMMP. Formed in May 2024, the group was tasked with shaping the vision, goals, and actions necessary to guide the district's waste management efforts over the next 20+ years.

The group's composition was carefully selected to include technical experts, mana whenua representatives, community members, and FNDC staff, ensuring a broad and inclusive perspective. The diversity of the group—encompassing gender balance, a range of ages, and varied levels of experience—enriched discussions and decision-making. Through workshops and ongoing communication, members contributed their ideas and expertise.

The Rōpū Mahi (Working Group's) involvement has been instrumental in ensuring the SWS reflects the values, needs, and aspirations of the Far North community.

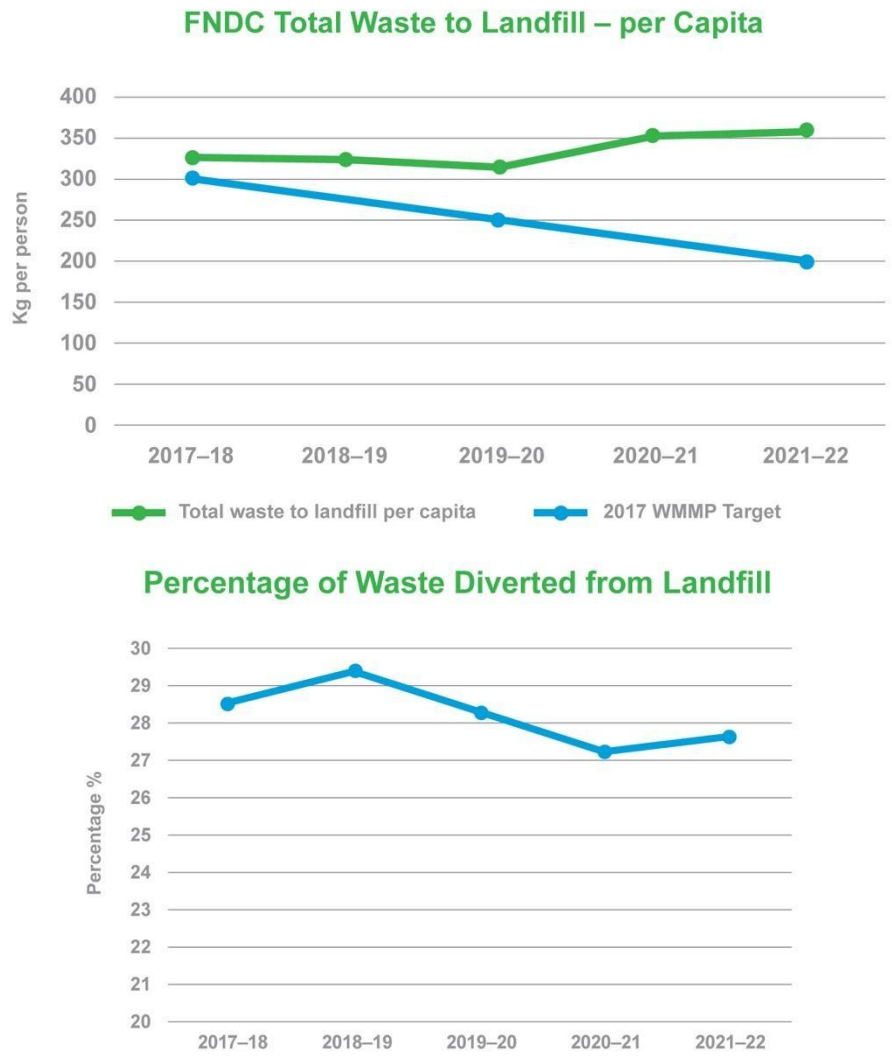
Waste Management Landscape in the Far North

Current State

The Far North District is facing increasing challenges with waste management. Over the past few years, the total volume of waste generated has been steadily rising, with more of it ending up in landfills.

Between 2019/2020 and 2021/2022, both overall waste generation and waste sent to landfill have increased. At the same time, the diversion rate—waste being redirected from landfill through methods like recycling or composting—has been declining since 2018/2019 as shown in Figures 1 and 1a below.

This trend is concerning as it indicates that, despite efforts to reduce waste, the district is becoming more reliant on landfill disposal. The following figure illustrates the total waste sent to landfill, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced waste minimisation strategies.



Figures 1 & 1a: Current state waste trends from 2023 Waste Assessment (s. 4.4.1)

Where our waste comes from

The waste going to landfills comes from different sources across the district. The largest portion of landfill waste comes from construction and demolition making up 31% of all landfill waste. Additionally, organic waste, mainly food scraps, accounts for 18% of the waste. The following chart shows the composition of waste going to landfills in the Far North:

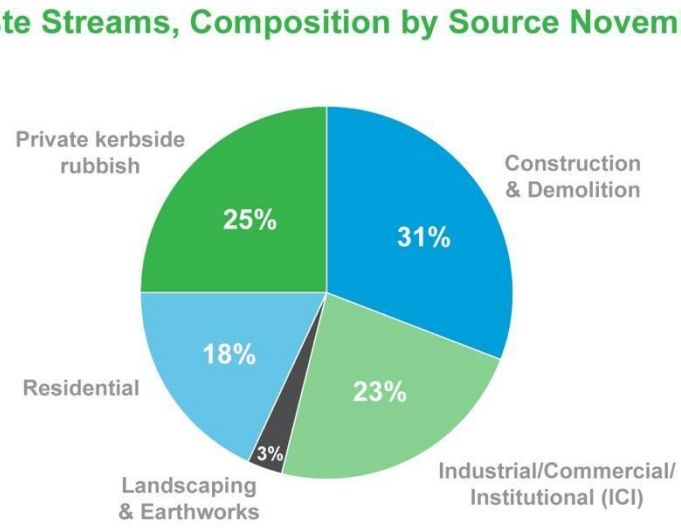


Figure 2: Observed waste compositions of waste to landfill

Waste from Kerbside Collections

An analysis of kerbside waste composition highlights organic waste as the primary contributor, accounting for 42.1% of the total weight. Of this, food scraps alone make up 36%. This presents a significant opportunity to reduce waste through dedicated organics diversion initiatives. Plastics represent the second-largest waste category, followed by paper, indicating the need for continued efforts to reduce reliance on single-use plastics and enhanced recycling systems.

Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping is also a problem in the district. This is when waste is disposed of in the wrong places, like leaving rubbish beside public bins, dumping it in the bush, or leaving it on the side of the road. Over a 12-month period, 1,351.5m³ of illegally dumped waste was collected, costing around $116,000 annually to clean up. Total volumes of illegal dumping, burning and burying that are not collected are unknown.

Key Challenges

As we plan for the future of waste management, several important challenges specific to the Far North District need to be addressed. These challenges are informed by the Waste Assessment and reflect both ongoing issues and emerging trends since the previous WMMP. Below is a detailed breakdown:

Access to Recycling Facilities and services

While progress has been made with the establishment of new Community Recycling Centres (CRCs), there are still gaps in accessibility. The goal of ensuring that the majority residents are within a 15-minute drive of a recycling drop-off has not been fully achieved. Since 2017,

three new CRCs have opened, and one summer site now operates year-round, but one centre (Peria) has been closed. Urban residents face challenges with private kerbside recycling services, such as the small 60L crates offered, which often cannot accommodate the average household's recycling volume.

Improving local recycling infrastructure is essential to increasing waste diversion and reducing reliance on landfills.

Increasing Waste to Landfill per capita

Although the total waste sent to landfills declined temporarily from 2017 to 2019, volumes have been rising steadily since 2020, both on a per capita basis and relative to GDP. Much of this increase is driven by commercial operations, which are primarily serviced by private refuse providers outside the FNDC's control. The challenge lies in addressing the overall increase in waste generation while ensuring proper disposal without incentivizing inappropriate practices like illegal dumping.

While waste to landfill is increasing, there are readily available technologies that could be introduced in the Far North to sort and divert key waste streams from both households and businesses. This includes technology for C&D waste sorting, composting of organic material, and sorting recyclables.

Illegal Waste Disposal

Illegal dumping, burning, and burying of waste remain significant issues, particularly in remote areas and on farms. These practices have harmful environmental impacts and are difficult to quantify, making targeted solutions challenging. At kerbside collection points and CRC sites, illegal dumping can be mitigated through stronger enforcement measures and improvements in service accessibility. However, tackling waste disposal in remote areas will require a combination of education, regulation, and incentives to encourage compliance with the waste management system.

Visibility of Residential Recycling Effectiveness

The effectiveness of residential recycling programs remains unclear. Current reporting from private providers of kerbside recycling focuses on overall waste diversion figures but lacks detailed insights into household participation and the success of recycling education initiatives. Improved reporting and data collection are needed to assess the impact of these programs and identify areas for improvement, particularly in engaging the community to adopt better recycling practices.

High Organic Waste to Landfill

Organic waste, particularly food scraps, is a major contributor to landfill volumes, representing a significant opportunity for waste diversion. However, the Far North district currently lacks collection and processing systems for organics, especially food scraps. There are some smaller, local initiatives for food scraps such as home composting, and

opportunities to divert green waste are available through the CRC network. Establishing such a system would require investment, either by FNDC or the private sector, in purpose-built facilities to handle food scraps at scale, addressing concerns related to health, odour, and environmental impacts. Diverting organic waste from landfills would also significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with national and regional climate goals. Partnerships or external funding may help support the development of a regional processing facility.

High Volume of Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste

Nationally, C&D waste constitutes the largest portion of landfill volumes. Construction economic activity in the Far North contributes a similar percentage of GDP compared to national figures, therefore it is likely the national average C&D waste tonnages are also being generated. Currently, FNDC has limited involvement in managing this waste stream, as it is primarily handled by private companies and FNDC has very low visibility of the composition, size and method of disposal of this waste stream. Encouraging better sorting, reuse, and recycling practices within the construction industry, alongside partnerships with private providers, could reduce the environmental impact of this waste stream alongside improved visibility to better reduce this waste stream.

Legislation Changes Impacting Cost and Volume

Changes to waste-related legislation, including the Waste Minimisation Act, New Zealand Waste Strategy, Waste Disposal Levy and Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) settings, and potential product stewardship schemes, are expected to influence waste costs and drivers for waste minimisation. FNDC must adapt its services to stay compliant while remaining affordable.

Government initiatives such as standardizing recyclable materials and expanding recycling and food scraps collections may further reshape the waste stream. Although only standardisation has been implemented, the current Government is looking at other legislative instruments it can use to drive diversion, such as increasing the waste disposal levy and ETS costs. FNDC faces a more uncertain regulatory landscape but needs to remain responsive to align with changing national priorities. Flexibility and proactive planning will be essential to manage future changes without undue financial pressure on the community.

Future Growth and Demand

The Far North District's demand for waste services will be shaped by a range of factors including demographic shifts, economic activity, land use changes, and societal expectations. These drivers, coupled with natural disasters and evolving national waste policies, highlight the need for a future-proofed waste management strategy. These factors are further explained below:

Demographic and Population Changes

Population growth is a significant factor influencing future waste demand. Between 2024 and 2034, the Far North population is projected to grow at an average rate of 0.7% per annum, reaching approximately 80,200 by 2034, before tapering off and peaking at 83,200 in 2049.

Key demographic trends include:

- An aging population, with the 65+ age group expected to form 30% of the population by 2041.
- Growth is concentrated in urban areas like Kerikeri/Waipapa, Paihia, and Kaitāia.
- A shift in net migration favouring older age groups, with minimal growth among younger populations. The aging population and moderate growth suggest waste generation per capita may stabilise or decrease due to a more waste-conscious demographic.

Economic and Industrial Activity

Economic growth and changes in industrial activity significantly influence waste generation. The district's GDP has grown by 35% over the last decade, driven by construction, retail trade, agriculture, and professional services. However, future growth is expected to slow, aligning with shifts toward forestry, horticulture, and service industries, which are less waste intensive. Projections estimate GDP growth at 1.7% per annum through 2030, tapering to 1.3% through 2050.

Land Use and Housing Development

Shifts in land use from dairy farming to forestry and horticulture will reduce livestock waste but may increase plant-based waste over the long term. If dwelling growth keeps pace with population growth, the number of dwellings could increase to 31,013 by 2034.

Waste Minimisation and Community Expectations

Community expectations for waste minimisation and improved recycling services are growing, driven by concerns over plastic waste and resource recovery. Satisfaction surveys show high approval for recycling centres (80%-85%) but lower satisfaction with overall refuse and recycling services (67%-73%). Enhanced kerbside services and expanded resource recovery facilities may be necessary to meet rising expectations.

Resilience to Natural and Man-Made Disasters

Events like earthquakes, cyclones, and pandemics underscore the need for robust waste management systems that can handle sudden, large-scale demands. Lessons from past events will inform disaster preparedness, ensuring the Far North district has access to waste facilities with adequate capacity to handle disaster waste when needed.

Waste Projections

Residential waste generation is expected to rise moderately in line with population growth, with per-household waste projected at 618 kg/year, below the national average of 680

kg/year. Efforts to increase recycling and divert organics could significantly reduce landfill volumes. Non-residential waste, driven by economic activity, is projected to grow, but targeted interventions could reduce landfill contributions from divertible materials.

Goals

This SWS establishes a long-term vision for waste management, focusing on reducing waste, increasing resource recovery, and fostering a circular economy to protect our environment and community. Over the next 25 years, we will build on these goals progressively, ensuring alignment with national waste strategies and local priorities.

Goal 1: Reduce Waste to Landfill

We want to send less waste to landfills, which is good for both the environment and the community. This means more recycling, less dumping, and smarter use of materials.

Objectives:

- Increase the percentage of waste that is recovered and reused, rather than going to landfill
- Increase the amount of waste that's disposed of responsibly, reducing illegal dumping, burning and burying of waste.
- Maximise the value of reusable materials by keeping them in use instead of throwing them away.
- Increase public awareness of appropriate waste disposal.

Goal 2: Make Resource Recovery and Responsible Waste Disposal everyday activities

We want to make recycling and responsible waste disposal part of everyday life for everyone. This means making it easy to recycle and encouraging people to think about how they handle waste.

Objectives:

- Make sure that resource recovery services, like recycling centres and/or kerbside collection services, are available and convenient for everyone.

- Support systems that make it easier to reuse items instead of throwing them away, maximising their value.

Goal 3: Encourage a Local Circular Economy

A circular economy is where we keep materials in use for as long as possible, minimising waste. We want to create more opportunities for reusing, repurposing, and recycling locally, building a stronger and more sustainable economy.

Objectives:

- Increase community involvement in circular economy practices, like repair workshops or local recycling programs.
- Grow the district's ability to reuse and repurpose materials, keeping waste out of the landfill and supporting local jobs.

Goal 4: Protect and Regenerate the Environment

Our waste has a big impact on the environment, especially on our land, water, and air. We need to make sure that our waste management practices help protect our environment and even reverse damage where we can.

Objectives:

- Reduce the negative effects that waste has on water, land, and air quality.
- Remediate and restore problematic waste sites.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste activities, helping to fight climate change.

Staged Approach

To achieve our vision, we will take a staged approach over the next 25 years:

WMMP Stages	Focus Areas
Stage 1 2025–2031	Establish the groundwork for waste reduction and resource recovery • Engage communities in sustainable waste practices • Assess risks of historical waste sites • Promote circular economy practices • Consider providing FNDC funded kerbside services
Stage 2 2032–2037	• Develop infrastructure to manage organic and construction waste • Localise recovery systems • Remediate high-risk waste sites Strengthen partnerships that support circular economy activities and innovation.

Stage 3 2038–2043	• Invest in advanced recovery technologies and systems • Embed circular economy principles across the district • Broaden environmental restoration efforts
Stage 4 2044–2049	• Achieve a community where waste is minimised, and resource recovery is normalised • Adopt and integrate advanced circular economy practices. • Complete ecological restoration of historical waste sites

By following this staged approach, the Far North District will achieve a sustainable and resilient waste management system, driving economic, social, and environmental benefits for generations to come.

Implementation and Review

Implementation

The SWS will be implemented through a series of four consecutive WMMPs, each spanning a six-year period. These plans will serve as the operational framework to guide FNDC in achieving its long-term waste reduction and sustainability goals. Each WMMP will build upon the successes and lessons learned from the previous phase, ensuring continuous improvement and adaptation to emerging challenges and opportunities. The action plan for the first WMMP (2025-2031) is included as Appendix One.

Review

In accordance with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, WMMP's must also be reviewed at least every six years to ensure they remain aligned with legislative requirements and community needs. This review process provides an opportunity to integrate changes in national direction or local demand. Regular reviews of both the WMMP and Waste Assessments will ensure compliance with legal obligations while maintaining a responsive and forward-looking approach to waste management.

Funding

There are a variety of funding mechanisms that can be used to support the goals in this SWS. These mechanisms aim to ensure that the Strategy's goals are achieved while balancing affordability, cost-effectiveness, and environmental sustainability.

The budgets for implementing this Strategy will be determined through FNDC's Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan processes. Regular reporting will ensure transparency and accountability for how funds are allocated and spent. FNDC is committed to delivering the objectives of this Strategy within available resources while seeking efficiencies and leveraging partnerships to enhance waste minimisation outcomes across the district.

Funding Options	Description
FNDC-allocated Waste Disposal Levy funds	FNDC receives a population-based share of national waste levy funds from the Ministry for the Environment. Currently, 50% of the waste levy collected from disposal facilities is allocated to councils with the remainder managed by the Ministry for the Environment. These funds, derived from the Waste Disposal Levy, must be spent on activities that promote or achieve waste minimisation, in accordance with the operative WMMP. FNDC uses these funds for infrastructure, services, education, and grants as outlined in this Strategy.
Waste Minimisation Fund	After deducting administrative costs, the remaining 50% of the levy collected is managed by the Ministry for the Environment through the contestable Waste Minimisation Fund. FNDC may also apply for additional funding through the Waste Minimisation Fund for specific projects, either independently or collaboratively with other councils or organisations.
Uniform Annual General Charge	A charge that is paid by all ratepayers
User Charges	Charges levied for specific waste management services, such as private subscription fees for kerbside refuse collection or gate fees for the disposal of materials at transfer stations. These charges follow a "polluter pays" principle, ensuring costs are allocated to those who generate waste.
Targeted Rates	Applied to properties that receive FNDC-provided waste services, such as kerbside recycling collection. This ensures that service users directly contribute to the costs.
Sale of Recovered Materials	Revenue generated from the sale of recyclable or reusable materials, which helps offset costs associated with waste minimisation initiatives.
Private Sector Funding	The private sector may fund or supply certain waste management and minimisation activities, for example to generate income from users of private waste transfer stations or private waste processing facilities. FNDC may work with private sector service providers where this will assist in achieving the WMMP goals and an efficient waste service for the Far North. External funding can be obtained through community partnerships e.g. by developing relationships with community enterprise

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