

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

Whiringa-ā-rangi November 2025 | Putanga Issue 81

Final local election results confirmed

Final election results released on Saturday morning 18 October confirmed a second term as mayor for Moko Tepania and welcomed 16 new faces onto the council – four around the council table and 12 to the district's three community boards.

The final election results showed Moko Tepania had boosted his winning tally to a total of 12744 votes, 4885 ahead of nearest rival Ann Court.

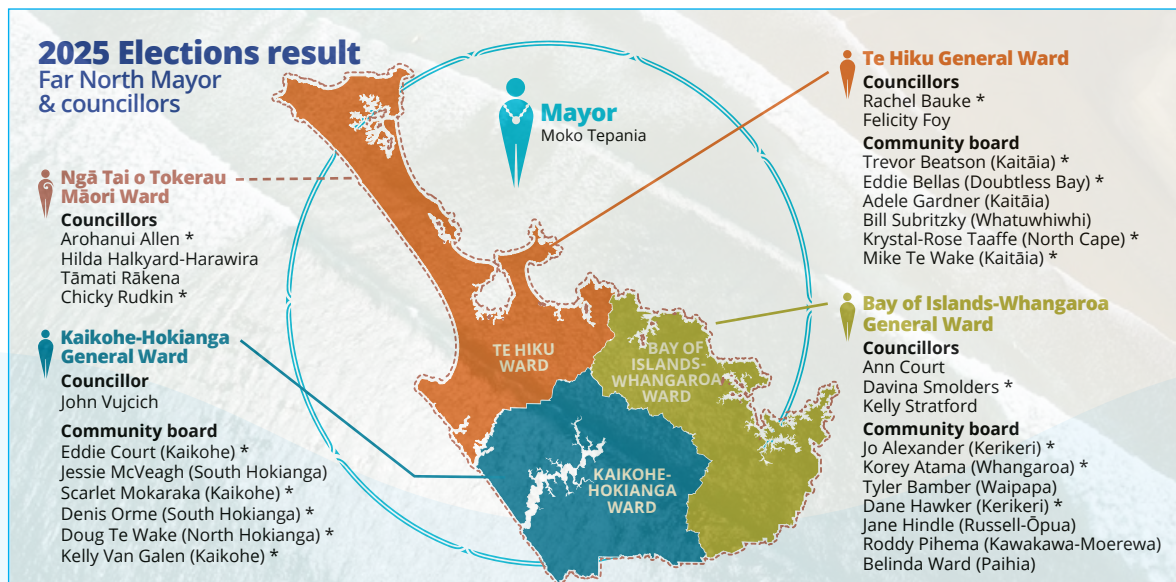
Final results include all verified votes and all special votes cast before polls closed on Saturday 11 October at midday.

Māori Ward Poll

The vote to retain Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward increased with the addition of special votes, boosting the margin to 2727, with a final count of 13346.

Voter turnout

Far North voters bucked the national trend this year. Participation in the local election reached 50.7 per cent with the release of final results. This is the highest turnout for the Far North since the early 2000s.



Above is the final list of those elected to Far North District Council. Names with an asterisk are newly elected to that role.

Across Aotearoa New Zealand, figures from Local Government New Zealand pegged the average voter turnout at 32 per cent as of Saturday 11 October.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Simson Park plan in final round



Submissions are open for two months for you to have your say.

Simson Park in Moerewa has long been a place where locals and visitors come together for sports, recreation, and community connection. After months of kōrero and collaboration, the final draft of the Simson Park Reserve Management Plan is ready for community feedback.

The proposed plan includes four full-sized winter sports fields, upgraded multi-purpose courts, space for shared clubrooms, and improved walking, biking, and scooting paths. There's also a focus on enhancing informal recreation areas, adding trees, seating, and family-friendly features.

The council is also proposing to formally classify a small area of reserve land on Leaity Street as a Recreation Reserve. This change would officially recognise how the space is already used.

Over the past year, the council has worked alongside rangatahi, mana whenua, local sports clubs, and community groups to gather ideas on how the park can work best for those who use it. The draft reserve management plan reflects that input.

Submissions close on 17 December 2025.

Digi-coaches bring tech relief



Details about digi-coach sessions are on library Facebook pages.

Need a hand setting up your smartphone, learning an app, or exploring new AI tools? Four of our libraries are now offering a 'digi-coach' programme to provide free advice to those with tech-related issues.

Visitors can drop into the Kaikohe, Kaitiāia, Kawakawa, and Kerikeri libraries to get help solving their digital mysteries with a digi-coach. No bookings are needed and sessions are free, just look for a coach in a bright blue vest from Monday to Friday, 10am to 2pm.

Digi-coaches can help you with using a smartphone or tablet, getting support with online safety, setting up an email account, applying for jobs, creating a CV, managing online banking, downloading and using apps, or exploring AI tools to help with everyday life.

This is the second phase of the digi-coach pilot programme provided by Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa (DIAA) and supported by the Ministry of Social Development, in partnership with libraries and community groups.

Digi-coaches will be available until the end of November and will also host pop-up experience sessions where you can try out virtual reality (VR) headsets.

Contributing to growth costs



The policy ensures those driving growth contribute to infrastructure.

With growth continuing across the Far North, the council has adopted a new development contributions policy to ensure the costs of growth-related infrastructure are shared by those creating the demand, rather than falling mainly on ratepayers.

Utu Whakawhanake – Development Contributions Policy 2025 was formally adopted at the council's Extraordinary Meeting on 7 October and will take effect from 29 May 2026.

The council removed development contributions in 2015. The decision to reinstate the policy enables the council to collect contributions from developers to help fund essential infrastructure such as water, wastewater, stormwater and roading upgrades needed to support new developments.

The policy will ensure that those driving growth contribute to the infrastructure that supports it. The policy also introduces a requirement that contributions collected within a specific catchment must be spent on capital projects within that same area, improving transparency and local fairness.

The policy was refined after public consultation.

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