

Talented rangatahi leading the way

"Nothing about us, without us" was the winning message at this year's E Tū Rangatahi - Stand Up Young Leaders, where Te Kura Takiwā o Taipa - Taipa Area School took first place for a pitch calling for young people to have a stronger voice in local decision-making.

Delivered through a partnership between Far North District Council and the Ministry of Education, the pilot event brought together rangatahi aged 15 to 24 from across the Far North District. Over several weeks, participants identified issues affecting their communities, developed innovative solutions and prepared pitches to share their ideas at the Mahinga Innovation Centre.

Te Kura Takiwā o Taipa - Taipa Area School's winning pitch focused on a simple but powerful idea - decisions affecting young people should include young people. The team highlighted the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for rangatahi to contribute to local decision-making and help shape the future of their communities.

As part of their prize, the team will have the opportunity to present their idea to the Mayor's Office, giving them a chance to share their proposal directly with local leaders.



Te Kura Takiwā o Taipa - Taipa Area School's entry won the E Tū Rangatahi - Stand Up Young Leaders programme.

Second place went to a team of Kaitiāia College interns from Te Hiku Hauora for Pure Shift, an interactive app designed to support rangatahi on their journey to quit vaping through education, wellbeing tools and access to support services.

They received a scholarship from The Moko Foundation towards leadership programmes, which aim to provide future pathways for leadership, employment and education for rangatahi in the Far North.

Third place was awarded to Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Kaikohe, whose pitch encouraged greater youth participation in voting, highlighting the role rangatahi can play in shaping the future of their communities.

The range of ideas presented at E Tū Rangatahi reflected the issues that matter to young people across the Far North.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

PDP Appeals version available



FNDC has released the Appeals version of the Proposed District Plan.

Far North District Council has released the Appeals version of the Proposed District Plan (PDP).

The appeal period closed on 12 August 2026. In total, 32 appeals to decisions on the Proposed District Plan were made to the Environment Court. These appeal notices are available to review on the council's website. This page will also be updated to include notices of other parties who join the appeal proceedings.

The Appeals version of the PDP shows which provisions are subject to appeal. These are identified with an orange-dashed border and exclamation icon on the right-hand side. Mapped features subject to appeal are also identified on the planning map with an orange dashed polygon.

For more information about the PDP, visit the council's Proposed District Plan website.

Alcohol ban for Lake Ngātu



Katene Ericksen is a supporter of the Lake Ngātu alcohol ban.

Far North District Council has approved new and updated alcohol ban areas, following a review that found alcohol-related harm continues to affect many public spaces used by local communities.

The changes include two new alcohol ban areas at Lake Ngātu and Waitangi, along with updates to existing alcohol ban areas in Kaitiāia, Kerikeri, Waipapa, Paihia and Kaikohe. The revised boundaries better reflect locations where alcohol-related disorder and crime have been identified through police data and community feedback.

Alcohol ban areas are public places where people cannot consume, bring into, or possess alcohol during the times the ban applies. Most alcohol ban areas in the Far North operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the year. The bans are enforced by New Zealand Police.

New café to serve up training



The new hub will be dishing out training opportunities.

A café planned for Kaikohe's new community hub will provide more than a place to grab a coffee – local learners will also gain hands-on hospitality experience as part of a new training opportunity.

Local private training establishment, Te Kotahitanga E Mahi Kaha Trust (TKEMKT), is expanding its educational scope. Established by trust deed in 1983, TKEMKT has operated in the Kaikohe community since 1986. The private training establishment provides education, employment and pathway support, alongside other services for whānau and the wider community.

The new hub is being developed by the council on the corner of Broadway and Raihara Street and is due to open on 9 November 2026. The facility will provide library services, community spaces, learning opportunities and a café, all under one roof.

