

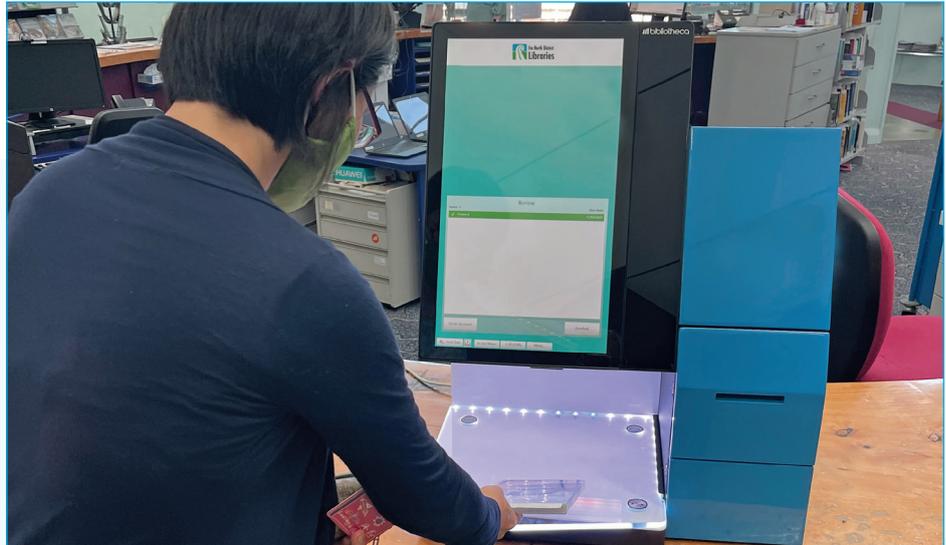
Paenga-whāwhā April 2023

Library customers opt for self-service

Self-service kiosks now account for 61.34 per cent of all Far North Library transactions after the technology was officially launched in January 2022.

The kiosks enable library users to check out their own books, magazines and other library materials, as well as renew books and view account details. The system is similar to supermarket self-service kiosks and uses radio frequency identification tags inside library items. Library users simply scan their library cards under a motion-activated laser. The user's account information then appears on the kiosk screen, followed by prompts on how to check out items.

Users can view information on fees they owe, books they have on hold and can perform transactions in a range of languages, including te reo Māori.



Library staff say the contactless system is reducing customer queues and has freed them up to plan and deliver more library programmes such as Minecraft workshops,

Lego club, arts and crafts, story time and more. You can view all upcoming library events and find out more about council libraries on the FNDC website.

New Kaikohe water source by June



The Deep Bore Project at Tokareireia (Monument Hill) in Kaikohe should be providing the town with a reliable secondary water source by June this year. Central to the project is the new 120-metre-deep bore drilled into an aquifer at Monument Hill that is already a water source for Kaikohe. The new bore will only be used if the town's main water source, the Wairoro Stream, is running low.

The bore will provide approximately 350 cubic metres a day of drinking water to Kaikohe when required.

The bore is now connected to the Monument Hill Water Treatment Plant, which has been upgraded as part of the project. The new purpose-built facility meets the compliance requirements of Taumata Arowāi (the water services regulator for Aotearoa) of enabling continuous online monitoring of the water supply by the regulator.

For six weeks, from early April, the new bore and pump will be flushed as water treatment processes and electrical operations are tested by council contractors. The project is due to be fully commissioned by June.

Drinking water for Kaikohe is drawn from two sources – about 70 per cent from Wairoro Stream and 30 per cent from an existing bore at Tokareireia. Water from both sources is treated.

Iwi have approved the project, which has a budget of \$1.18 million. You can find out more about the Kaikohe drought resilience project at www.fndc.govt.nz.

Next stage in District Plan review



A summary of more than 560 submissions received during a 2022 consultation on the council's Proposed Far North District Plan will be made public in May.

The council's District Plan team is completing final summaries of the submissions and 6,066 individual points raised during the 12-week consultation period, which closed in October. After the summary document has been published, an invitation will be issued seeking further submissions from the public either in support of, or in opposition to, summarised submission points.

An independent planner, similar to the 'friend of the submitter' service provided during earlier submissions, will be available to answer questions and provide advice.

Once the submission process closes, council staff will prepare reports for the hearing panel ahead of hearings in the second half of 2023.

fndc.govt.nz/District-Plan

2023 Property revaluations

Every three years, all properties in New Zealand are revalued. Revaluations set the value of the land (LV), capital (CV) and improvement value (IV).

The valuation process is undertaken by the council's valuer - Quotable Value (QV). Its team assesses the land and capital values across the district using a combination of current market data (sales and productivity), information from the council, and information from real estate agents. The revaluations are then audited by the Valuer-General.

For reasons beyond the council's control, Far North property revaluations have been delayed and will now be sent to property owners in May 2023. The revaluations are effective from the 1 October 2022, as required by the Rating Valuation Act 1998.

The new 2022 revaluation dates are:

Effective date of valuation	1 October 2022
Date of public notice	8 May 2023
Notices posted to property owners. Objection period begins.	15 May 2023
Objection period closes	22 June 2023

Property owners can object to new property valuations directly to QV. The objection period begins from when revaluations are posted out and closes on 22 June. Details on how to object will be included in your revaluation notice. Property-owners who have not received their revaluation notice by 27 May should contact QV: contact@QV.co.nz or call **0800 786 822**

A review of all objections may not be completed by 1 July when the council generates rates for the 2023/24 financial year. The council is required to send the first instalment invoice based on the value held at that time.

If a successful decision on your objection is made after 1 July, an amended rates assessment will be sent to you.

Rates and revaluation

The council will use new land values (LV) to set General Rates, Rooding Differential



Rates and the Kaitiaki Business Improvement District Rate effective from 1 July 2023.

Revaluations won't affect the Uniform Annual General Charge, Ward Rate or targeted rates for water and sewerage. Northland Regional Council uses land values to calculate rates for some services, including infrastructure and management of land/freshwater.

Only one targeted rate in the Far North is based on a property's capital value (CV). How much a property owner contributes towards stormwater control in their area is calculated using the CV.

Will my rates go up?

Revaluations often have only a moderate impact on your rates. For example, a 10 per cent increase in land value doesn't automatically mean a 10 per cent increase in your rates. Revaluations will have greater impact on rates if your land value has risen more than the district average. It is also possible that your rates will decrease if the value of your land has not increased as much as the district average.

The total rates you pay on your property will also depend on budgets set by the council when it adopts its Annual Plan 2023/24. Your new valuations will be available on our Rating Information Database as soon as they have been audited and confirmed. To view the valuation for your property, visit our website www.fndc.govt.nz and click on Top Tasks and then the Rates tab. The proposed rates for 2023-2024 will be published on the Rating Information Database by 31 May 2023.

Revaluation process

2022

01 October

Effective date of valuation

2023

08 May

Public notice published

15 May

Notices posted. Objection period begins

22 June

Objection period closes

View a short video on how valuations affect your rates at fndc.govt.nz/propertyvaluations