

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

Paenga-whāwhā April 2024 | Putanga Issue 43

Consultation on roading 'catch up' LTP

The opportunity to have your say on how the council allocates its spending for the next three years started on Monday 25 March and will run for a month.

The council formally adopted the Long Term Plan 2024-27 (LTP) at a recent Extraordinary Meeting.

Back-to-back weather events in 2022 and 2023, including Cyclone Gabrielle, had a significant impact on our infrastructure. The weather caused 487 slips – 140 by Cyclone Gabrielle alone. The repair bill for the district's road network has been estimated at \$41 million with \$15 million of those repairs completed.

Recognising the extra financial and capacity challenges faced by some local authorities, the government is allowing eight councils, including FNDC, to produce LTPs that cover three years instead of 10.

The shortened LTP includes a total rates increase of 16.5 per cent for 2024/25, followed by 7.9 per cent for 2025/26 and then 4.6 per cent in the third year of the LTP.

Kahika Moko Tepania says that while this figure is historically high for FNDC, it is on par with many other councils. According to Local Government New Zealand, 25 out of 48 councils are proposing rate increases of between 14 and 16 per cent.

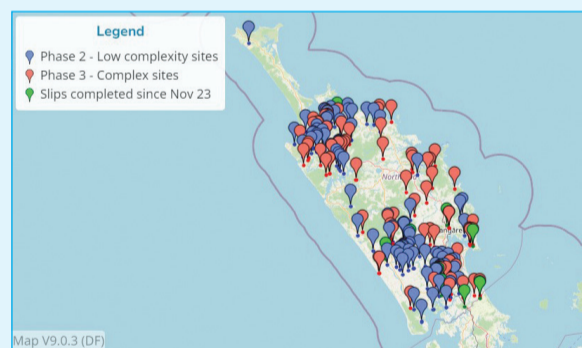


The government is allowing eight councils, including Far North District Council, to produce LTPs that cover three years instead of the usual 10 years.

While the district's transport network will be the spending priority over the next three years, there are other proposals the council is asking for community feedback on. These are proposed changes to

stormwater rates, water and wastewater services and community services. For information on submitting feedback, visit our website fndc.govt.nz and go to our *Have your say* page.

Online map details slip repairs



Northland's slip repair map uses data from NTA.

A new online mapping tool developed by Northland's three district councils shows the latest repair plans for 195 slips (85 in the Far North) still affecting district roads in the wake of severe weather events that hit the region in 2022-23.

The Northland slip repair map provides at-a-glance details on slip repairs by using a 'pin' to show the exact location of each slip affecting the council-maintained roading network. Clicking on the pin reveals the type of slip, its size, what repairs are required, and whether repairs are in the planning, investigation, design or construction stage. A completion estimate is also included. Colour-coded pins differentiate between complex slips requiring longer-term repairs, and less complex sites. It also shows completed slip repairs.

Northland's road network suffered damage worth approximately \$89 million from at least 10 different significant weather events since July 2022. The map was created in-house by the three councils and uses data provided by the Northland Transportation Alliance on all council-maintained roads in Northland.

Lack of rain = water restrictions

Level 3 water restrictions banning the use of hoses, sprinklers or irrigation systems were applied to Kaikohe and Ngāwhā on Monday 25 March after flows in the Wairoro Stream dropped to minimum levels allowed. Flows in the Wairoro Stream fell to just 13 litres per second on Wednesday 20 March, the minimum rate allowed by NRC's consent.

Level 2 water restrictions were also applied to Kawakawa and Moerewa on 25 March due to decreasing flows in the Tirohanga Stream. Level 2 water restrictions ban the use of sprinklers and irrigation systems, but handheld hoses and buckets are allowed. The aim of both restriction levels is to reduce consumption and protect the water sources.



Eye-level signs in Kaikohe raise awareness of Level 3 restrictions.

Reduced flows in the Wairoro and Tirohanga streams come after little significant rainfall for several months. The council is working with Tai Tokerau Water to access the Matawii Dam as a back-up water supply for Kaikohe and Ngāwhā. 'Save Water Now' signs are on display where Level 2 restrictions apply. Where Level 3 restrictions are in place 'Supplies are low' signs are also displayed.

Shade sails over 12 playgrounds

A council project to install sun protection over 12 playgrounds across the Far North is now wrapping up, with work on the final play areas almost completed.



Children using this Pukenui playground are now protected from the sun.

Pukenui in Te Hiku is the 11th location to benefit from the installation of shade sails as part of a two-year council project, while Freese Park in Ōmāpere is the final location to have support poles installed. Its shade sails are due to be added in the coming weeks. Stage One of the project was completed in 2022 and 2023 and included Te Tii Beach in Paihia, Taupō Bay, Coopers Beach, Memorial Park in Kaikohe, Waiotara Reserve in Karikari and Nisbet Park in Moerewa.

Stage Two is due to be completed by the end of April 2024 and includes Cable Bay, Matthews Avenue Park in Kaitiāia, Tōtara North, Church Street in Kawakawa, Pukenui and Freese Park in Ōmāpere.

Each of the Far North's community boards – Bay of Islands-Whangaroa, Te Hiku and Kaikohe-Hokianga – selected different colours for shade sails in their areas.