

Designs approved for fluoride rollout

Far North District Council has confirmed it is moving ahead with the installation of fluoride systems in its Kerikeri and Kaitiāia water supplies following final design approval and funding support from Manatū Hauora – Ministry of Health.

Final designs were signed off in April 2025, following detailed design discussions with the ministry. A funding agreement to cover the full cost of capital works was signed at the end of May.

Council staff are working closely with the ministry to finalise the project delivery timeline and ensure national standards are met. An application to extend the existing deadline of June 2024 to an indicative completion date of July 2026 is to be made to the Director-General of Health (DGoH) for approval.

This project follows a directive from the DGoH issued in 2022, instructing the council to fluoridate its public drinking water supplies serving Kerikeri and Kaitiāia.



Fluoridation of local waters aligns with a government strategy to reduce tooth decay and improve oral health outcomes across Aotearoa.

The council is responsible for designing, constructing, and maintaining the infrastructure required to meet the government mandate. Decisions around health policy and timing sit with central government.

For the full story go to
fndc.govt.nz

Keep water services local: public



A decision on water service delivery will be made at a July meeting.

The council has completed consultation on future water service delivery in the Far North.

Two possible delivery models were put forward to the public:

- *Te pēke* – a strengthened in-house model where services remain fully council-managed
- *Te kete* – a shared three-council water services organisation with Kaipara and Whangārei district councils.

One hundred and sixteen submissions were received during the consultation with most backing a locally managed approach.

Those in favour of *Te kete* pointed to potential cost savings and efficiencies. However, 68 per cent supported *Te pēke* for its ability to keep decision-making closer to home.

The consultation was part of the government's new Local Water Done Well policy, which replaces the Three Waters reform. Councils are now expected to demonstrate how they will deliver financially sustainable water services that meet all regulatory standards and support growth in their districts.

Progress to a bilingual Kerikeri



The strategy develops more spaces where te reo Māori is celebrated.

A newly renamed strategy to make Kerikeri the first bilingual town in the Far North is making progress.

The strategy was renamed Te Rauora, which means 'The Revitalisation of language through education, respect and identity'. The name was adopted during a council meeting held Thursday 8 May.

It relates to an agreement between the council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia (the rūnanga) to develop more spaces, places and opportunities in Kerikeri where te reo Māori is seen, heard and celebrated alongside the English language.

Future plans by the rūnanga to progress Te Rauora include: bilingual signage and promotional support; a tiered bilingual business programme including phrase guides and certification for participating businesses; rolling out sector-specific wānanga (business, tourism, education); and creating an online hub for te reo Māori business resources.

The bilingual strategy for Kerikeri is owned and funded by the Department of Internal Affairs and has been rolled out to other centres including Ōtaki, Rotorua, Whakatāne and Whangārei.

FNDC road works listed online



Details of works are updated weekly on our website.

The Far North District is home to 2508km of roading, all requiring regular maintenance.

Reports produced by our roading contractors are now being published weekly on our website to keep residents informed about planned and completed road maintenance.

Works listed in the reports include road grading, drainage, sealed and unsealed repairs, and much more. The reports include two columns:

- works completed the previous week
- and those planned for the coming week.

Work planned for each road is listed, so you can easily check what's happening on the routes you use.

All roading works are weather dependent, and are subject to the availability of staff, materials and equipment. If contractors don't complete scheduled road works, they will be reallocated to the following week. Reports on the webpage will be updated weekly to reflect these changes.

The council is working with contractors on new and better ways to keep customers informed via its website of its road maintenance programme.

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