

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Don't delay! Time to get STV voting

Voting in the local election has begun! Remember, if you don't vote by midday 11 October – you're not in the boat.

All the details you need on who can vote, how to vote, and who are standing is available on our Local Elections 2025 webpages. Need to talk to someone in person? Staff at any one of our eight service centres can help or you can catch up with staff on our Mobile Ballot Box Tour. So get your vote in today!

How to STV

STV is a way of voting that allows you to rank the candidates you choose in order of preference. To do this, on your voting form put a '1' in the box next to the candidate you like best. Next, put a '2' next to your second favourite candidate and so on.

You can vote for as many or as few candidates as you like but for your vote to be counted, there must be at least a single '1' filled in correctly on your form.

How candidates are elected using STV

Candidates must reach a certain number of votes, or a 'quota' to get elected. The quota is based on the total number of votes and the number of vacant positions.

First, the number '1' preferences of all voters are counted. If a candidate has reached the quota



The Far North is one of 15 councils in Aotearoa using Single Transferable Voting. You can vote for as many or few candidates as you want.

required, then they are elected. Once a candidate is elected, only the proportion of the votes they need to reach the quota is assigned to them. All votes, beyond the quota, are transferred to the candidate with the second-highest tally of votes. The quota is applied to the second-placed candidate and any

votes beyond the quota are transferred to the third-placed candidate, and so on.

You can see a demonstration of how this works at www.stv.govt.nz

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Old Warehouse future decided



Decisions on the building's demolition are being worked through.

The former Warehouse building at Matthews Avenue in Kaitiāia will be demolished, the council decided during its 28 August meeting.

The long-term future of the site is still being worked through with commercial proposals being considered. These remain confidential for now, but councillors were encouraged that the site's future would have positive outcomes for the community. The council acquired the property in 2020 and has pursued options for its use ever since. However, the building has suffered significant damage due to break-ins and vandalism. The council was told that costs would likely exceed \$1m to make the building suitable for a tenant without any certainty that the tenant would not demolish the building anyway. It is estimated that demolishing the building would cost ratepayers less than \$200,000. Whatever the final decision, it is anticipated the popular Kaitiāia market will continue to operate.

Christmas prep comes early



Xmas event organisers had to get their Santas in a row early.

Jingle bells will be ringing again this year after a distinctly Christmas theme at all three Far North community board meetings in September.

Due to the local elections, organisations planning Christmas events and street parades for their communities had to get their Santas in a row earlier than usual this year.

In Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Ward, three business associations received \$5000 each to host seasonal celebrations to draw in families and visitors in Kerikeri, Paihia and Kawakawa.

Te Hiku Community Board ensured two local groups will be keeping the Christmas fairy lights twinkling. Funding to hire a bouncy castle for Te Hāpua's Christmas parade and Whānau Fun Day was secured by the community, while Pompallier Catholic School will stage a production at Te Ahu with its funding.

Kaikohe-Hokianga board also supported groups with festive events in Kaikohe, Rāwene and Ōhaeawai.

Settlers Way traffic safety



Provide feedback via our website or at council service centres.

Calls for safer speeds in Ōkaihou have grown stronger following a fatal accident this year. The council is now asking people who live in or travel through the town to share their views on a proposal to install rubber speed humps on Settlers Way. The consultation closes on Sunday 12 October.

Your feedback will help decide the number of speed humps to be installed along the town's main street between State Highway 1 and the intersection with Hulme Drive. Installing the maximum option of four speed humps would slow traffic consistently along the full length of the road, as vehicles would have fewer opportunities to speed up between humps.

The issue of speeding along Settlers Way is deeply felt in the Ōkaihou community. In January, a young man was killed after a speeding driver came through town. The community lodged a formal petition with the local community board seeking immediate action to improve safety along the town's main street.

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