

Hui-tanguru February 2023

West Coast Rd repairs given high priority

Permanent repairs are expected to begin early this year on two major slips on West Coast Road in North Hokianga.

The slips occurred during severe weather in 2022; the first reduced West Coast Road to one lane near Panguru, while the second closed the road completely near Kohukohu. Both sites are now open to light, single lane traffic. However, a detour remains in place for heavy vehicles at the Kohukohu slip. Emergency service vehicles are exempted. Trucks and other heavy traffic travelling to Panguru and Mitimiti will continue to use a detour route via Runaruna Road.

The cost of repairing Far North roads damaged by recent storms is estimated at \$15.3 million. Of that, West Coast Road will require about \$1.1 million. Both slips are rated as high priority for repairs.

Waka Kotahi has approved funding for geotechnical assessments and detailed designs. However, residents are warned work will take some time to complete.



Repairs to two major slips on West Coast Road are expected to start early this year but may take some time. A detour remains in place for heavy vehicles at the Kohukohu slip.

Works to improve water



The Kerikeri-Waipapa water network has undergone additional work to flush out manganese.

Work to improve the Kerikeri-Waipapa water supply was undertaken in early January to flush manganese from the network.

The naturally occurring mineral is not a danger to health, but it does discolour water. The work followed concerns and frustration reported by customers over the colour of water coming out of their taps.

The council sources raw water for Kerikeri from Puketotara Stream and Waingaro Reservoir. Water from both sources is treated thoroughly to NZ water standards. To meet demand during the summer, extra raw water is taken from the reservoir to supplement supplies taken from the stream. The reservoir water source is more susceptible to manganese.

Far North Waters Alliance took additional steps to remove manganese from the system. This included hydrant flushing throughout the water supply network in the Kerikeri area. Residents should phone the council's 24-hour contact centre on 0800 920 029 if water discolouration reappears.

Ōpua-Paihia track reopens

A wooden boardwalk and bridge that form part of a popular coastal walking track between Ōpua and Paihia reopened in time for the Christmas holiday break.

However, further work on the structure is required by council contractors. The boardwalk and bridge will close on weekdays during January to allow for the installation of permanent safety rails and other work. The boardwalk and bridge will open at weekends during this time.

Construction challenges have included the discovery that more piles needed to be replaced than were initially identified. A very wet November also caused almost two weeks of delays to the project.

The council will begin a staged upgrade to the entire length of the Ōpua-Paihia track in 2023.



A popular coastal walking track has reopened, but more work is taking place in January.

Dog owners urged to watch out for dotterels

Summer is a good time to remind dog owners to be extra vigilant around our precious wildlife, especially when visiting beaches. Stricter dog access rules apply to protect the many sea birds that nest there.

The dotterel (tūturiwhatu) is particularly vulnerable because they nest above the high tide line.

Dotterels are now one of our rarest birds with only about 2500 left, making them more at risk than some species of kiwi. You can find out more about dotterels at www.doc.govt.nz

Waste Management and Minimisation consultation

The council is reviewing how we manage waste in the Far North. We want to understand community preferences and priorities when it comes to waste management and minimisation.

The council is required to have a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) and our current Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2017-2023 needs to be reviewed. This is an important piece of work that will complement central government proposals.

Right now, we want to get an indication of community priorities when it comes

to waste management and kerbside collection. Your feedback will inform further research. When we have an understanding of how those priorities and preferences could potentially impact rates, we will update you and ask for your feedback again.

To share your feedback, you can complete the online survey or email submissions@fndc.govt.nz. You can also post your written submission to: **Far North District Council, Private Bag 752, Kaikohe 0440, Attention: Strategy development.**



**Reduce,
reuse,
recycle...
review!**

Council is reviewing how we manage waste in the Far North. We want to understand community preferences and priorities when it comes to waste management and minimisation.

Head to fndc.govt.nz/yoursay to share your feedback by Monday 6 March.

For more information visit our website: www.fndc.govt.nz