

# Briefing Paper: Strategy partnership with Māori – Open Spaces and Solid Waste

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## Ngā whāinga | Purpose

To provide the background to the Open Spaces Strategy and Solid Waste Strategy and request a workshop with Te Kuaka Committee to discuss engagement with Māori.

## Horopaki | Context

### Open Spaces

Population growth, economic, and tourism opportunities are leading to more people wanting access to open space areas. In the absence of an open space strategy, it is challenging for the Far North District Council to plan consistently. Therefore, decisions are made in an ad hoc manner. Leading to a risk that valuable spaces can be developed, used, or rezoned for other purposes. The development, protection, and growth, of the open space network and improvements to the quality of open space is increasingly important.

Council approved the development of an open spaces strategy<sup>1</sup> in September 2022. An open spaces strategy provides strategic direction for the management of the district's open spaces ensuring that the open spaces network is well connected, fit for purpose, protected from encroachment, inappropriate use, and future proofed.

### Solid Waste

Under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, Council must have a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) which must be reviewed every 6 years.

The WMMP must adhere to several requirements including being consistent with the national waste strategy.

A recent review (May 2023) of the WMMP identified that the 2017-2023 WMMP<sup>2</sup>:

- is no longer consistent with the Waste Strategy and therefore does not adhere to legislative requirements
- does not follow best practice policy development processes
- does not address the issue of illegal dumping
- does not use the most appropriate targets to measure waste minimisation.

The WMMP should be amended to align with the Waste Strategy 2023, address illegal dumping, and to improve clarity regarding goals, objectives, and appropriate measures.

Achieving significant changes in waste minimisation is a long-term goal, the national Waste Strategy 2023 acknowledges this by adopting a vision for 2050. The WMMP covers a six-year period. In the current WMMP, Council has set waste targets that are unachievable within six years. A longer-term strategy would allow council to set and potentially achieve ambitious waste targets.

Some of the new requirements for councils have implementation dates that extend beyond the six-year WMMP review cycle. For example, Council must provide food scrap collection services by 2030. The extended implementation date is to allow councils sufficient time to implement the required infrastructure. Some infrastructure e.g., composting facilities, will need to be developed regionally.

A solid waste strategy that extends to 2050 would support Council with long term planning, particularly regarding infrastructure development and climate response actions that align with population growth.

<sup>1</sup> [Open Spaces Strategy - Options Analysis report 5.6](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Review of Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2017-2023. Report 6.3](#)

The WMMP could support the Solid Waste Strategy and act as an action plan to achieve Council's long-term vision.

Council receives annual funding via the Waste Levy, this funding can only be used for activities identified in the WMMP.

Therefore, Council approved the development of a solid waste strategy.

## Ngā kōrerorero | Discussion

### Open spaces

Open spaces are a highly valued community asset. The need to provide an appropriate range of active and passive recreation and leisure opportunities is also reflected in Council's vision of 'Creating Great Places'.

The development, protection and growth of open spaces, and improvements to the quality of these, is increasingly important. Population growth, changes in community expectations, and economic and tourism opportunities all have implications for open spaces. With residential intensification, including subdivision of large productive land holdings, there are fewer larger sections and vacant land that provide incidental local recreation areas.

Open spaces are key contributors to cultural, ecological, environmental and amenity values. Ensuring these values are appropriately maintained and supported as the District evolves and grows is of great interest to the communities of the Far North District.

An open spaces strategy includes the following:

- Council controlled parks and reserves (including natural areas)
- Off-road walkways and shared paths
- Civic areas
- Cemeteries
- Beaches, rivers and lakes (including harbours)

As an example of good practice, Kāpiti Coast District Council developed an open spaces strategy in collaboration with mana whenua, using a kaupapa Māori planning framework, to place iwi partnership at the centre of Kāpiti's open spaces strategy and provision. Kāpiti Coast District Council pledges to continue to partner with iwi on the implementation of the strategy, including developing an action plan.<sup>3</sup>

Staff would like to seek guidance from Te Kuaka as to the most appropriate way to ensure collaboration and partnership with Māori to draft this strategy. This includes ensuring the guiding values and principles to help anchor the strategy in Te Ao Māori thinking.

The strategy development will follow the IAP2 engagement model including district wide public engagement and key stakeholder collaboration.

Once completed, the draft strategy will be released for public consultation.

### Solid waste

In March 2023, the government released a new Waste Strategy<sup>4</sup> with a new vision "*By 2050, Aotearoa New Zealand is a low-emissions, low-waste society, built upon a circular economy. We cherish our inseparable connection with the natural environment and look after the planet's finite resources with care and responsibility*".

The guiding principles are:

- Take responsibility for how we make, use, manage and dispose of things.
- Apply the waste hierarchy preferences to how we manage materials.
- Protect and regenerate the natural environment and its systems.

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<sup>3</sup> [Kapiti Coast Open Spaces Strategy](#)

<sup>4</sup> The Waste Strategy <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/Te-rautaki-para-Waste-strategy.pdf>

- Deliver equitable and inclusive outcomes.
- Ensure our systems for using, managing and disposing of materials are financially sustainable.
- Think across systems, places and generations.

The Waste Strategy is enriched by Te Ao Māori stating:

In te ao Māori, the fundamental concept of whakapapa is closely linked and adds further richness. Whakapapa can be broadly described as the kinship between all living things: past, present and future. Whakapapa not only exists between people but between people and the planet. That kinship creates connection, respect and responsibility.... In this way, whakapapa gives rise to kaitiakitanga – our stewardship responsibility to actively care for the environment around us.

Engagement is a key component to developing a successful strategy. An online survey was conducted as part of the review of the WMMP. This survey has provided valuable information to support the vision, goals and objectives of the strategy.

Moving forward a working group consisting of key stakeholders and interested parties will be established to draft the goals and objectives of the strategy and identify the key actions for the next WMMP.

Staff would like to ensure that Council's solid waste strategy is also enriched by Te Ao Māori and seek guidance from Te Kuaka as to the most appropriate way to ensure partnership with Māori on this strategy. This includes ensuring the guiding values and principles to help anchor the strategy in Te Ao Māori thinking.

Staff are aiming to release the draft solid waste strategy and associated WMMP for public consultation early 2024. Finalising the new WMMP in 2024, will allow Council to utilise the Waste Levy fund on new actions not identified in the current 2017-23 WMMP.

## E whai ake nei | Next Steps

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Staff would like to workshop with Te Kuaka the most appropriate way to partner with Māori on both the open spaces strategy and solid waste strategy projects.

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