Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika
Far North District Council

Member Report

Name: Arohanui Allen

Ward: Māori Ward Councillor

Date: September Report

Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting Topic	Comment
02.09	Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board Meeting	The meeting considered four community funding applications totalling $18,591, receiving a project completion report from the Rawene Community Library, updating community funding guidance, reviewing the Chair's report on local issues, and monitoring progress on outstanding board resolutions and infrastructure projects. We also heard deputations from community members and encourage whānau to come and kōrero to community matters.
03.09	Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board Meeting	This hui considered confirming previous minutes, naming a new Kerikeri road, adopting revised Taupō Bay Steps Working Group terms of reference, and allocating over $74,000 in community and placemaking funding. Members also reviewed project outcomes, community issues, member reports, and progress on outstanding resolutions.
04.09	Taupō Bay Working Group	The Taupō Bay Working Group reviewed progress on restoring beach access, noting the permanent stairs project is advancing through engineering and consent processes, with approvals hoped for by Christmas. Community feedback on the temporary ramp has been positive, although residents favour it remaining. Signage, stakeholder communication, and consent work remain ongoing.
04.09	E Tū Rangatahi Winning Pitch	

07.09	Northland Waters - Shareholders Representative Group	The Northland Waters Shareholders Representative Group discussed developing a Performance Framework to measure how successfully the new water services entity delivers shareholder expectations. Members considered seven key performance domains, including service delivery, asset management, affordability, environmental outcomes, and iwi and hapū relationships, and were asked to guide the framework's future development and governance approach. The proposed framework will be refined over time using baseline performance data and operational experience.
09.09	Te Kūkupa Committee for Strategy, Policy and Regulation	The Te Kūkupa Committee for Strategy, Policy and Regulation considered releasing a draft Local Alcohol Policy for public consultation and recommending adoption of the new He Kāinga Mana Housing Strategy. Members also reviewed Sport Northland's annual outcomes report, monitored open actions and resolutions, and provided governance oversight on key strategic policy priorities. I'm really excited by the He Kāinga Mana Housing Strategy and the role of FNDC to be an enabler and advocate.
09.09	Workshop - Te Kūkupa Committee for Strategy, Policy and Regulation	The workshop focused on Resource Management and Local Government reforms, including development of a Northland Regional Spatial Plan, governance arrangements, Māori participation, Secretariat and funding models, and implications of the Head Start proposal. Discussion centred on ensuring continuity through potential council restructuring while protecting local voice, legislative Tiriti obligations, accountability and long-term planning. In preparation for upcoming Long Term Plan deliberations, Councillors were also advised of a series of presentations scheduled for the 9 September Te Kūkupa Committee meeting. Representatives from community

		organisations operating significant FNDC assets or receiving substantial operational grants will speak directly with members, including CBEC, Turner Centre, Kaikohe and Districts Sportsville, Te Pou Herenga Tai, Sport Northland, Hundertwasser Park Charitable Trust and Te Puāwaitanga. The presentations are intended to provide councillors with direct insight from these organisations to help inform future LTP decision-making. Te Puāwaitanga co-chair Mike Simm was unable to attend and instead provided written commentary for members and staff.
10.09	Strengthening Assurance and Public Confidence	
14.09	Youth Education and Leadership Pathway Portfolio	Covered under Portfolio
15.09	Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships	The Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships received updates on Māori freehold land rating debt, development of the draft Local Alcohol Policy, progress on the District Wide Spatial Strategy, Māori engagement initiatives, and implementation of the Te Pae o Uta framework. The committee also reviewed strategic priorities, Māori participation, partnership activity, and outstanding actions.
16.09	Te Koukou Committee for Transport and Infrastructure	Only joined this hui for a short time as I was attending the Hīkoi mō te reo Māori in Kaikohe. However I was disappointed to see the Old Kaikohe Library agenda item lie on the table and look forward to progressing this kaupapa.
17.09	Introduction to the RMA Course	Covered under Training
18.09	Taupō Bay Working Group	Work continues to progress with involvement from community and hapū/marae representatives.
22.09	Long Term Plan Workshop	This workshop covered rates review options, district and ward rating impacts, funding mechanisms, transition arrangements, Council preferences, and Long Term Plan

		decisions. An RMA Reform session considered Regional Spatial Planning, governance, Māori participation, Secretariat arrangements, cost sharing, and safeguards for local voice, informing future Joint Committee discussions.
23.09	Local Procurement	Hui with staff and the CE
24.09	Council Meeting	Council considered a broad agenda covering housing, infrastructure, placemaking, governance and Māori partnership matters. It reviewed temporary road closures, the Russell placemaking design, He Kāinga Mana Housing Strategy, Te Patukeha Environmental Management Plan, Far North Holdings' Statement of Intent, Kaikohe IAF infrastructure funding, committee updates, and outstanding resolutions. He Kāinga Mana Housing Strategy was a hot topic of discussion, the strategy supports to address our housing shortage with much of our housing need being in areas of our district where the cost of development outweighs the return, in these areas of our district it is predominantly Māori led organisations that are meeting the need. It was also an honour to receive Te Patukeha's environmental plan and is an example for all iwi and hapū in tabling documents that will need to be taken into account in the RMA.
25.09	Te Kūkupa Chairperson Agenda Review	Agenda preview for our 7 October Te Kūkupa Committee meeting.
28.09	Arnold Rae Park	Met with Clayton Murray to discuss sustainable options for Arnold Rae Park and it's future as a thriving community asset. Discussions and optioneering is still ongoing.
29.09	Long Term Plan Workshop	Ongoing discussion building on questions raised at our earlier workshop and providing tools for evidence based Governance decisions.

30.09	Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board meeting	The Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board considered reserve classification, capital works progress, community funding, rural travel grants, project reports, climate adaptation planning and governance updates. It reviewed recommendations to classify Kaikohe Memorial Park, name a new road, support community initiatives, monitor infrastructure projects, and advance community-led climate adaptation through local panels and wānanga.

Community Matters

This section should be completed for matters arising within the community, which Council need to be aware of. It could be related to ongoing projects, requests, feedback etc.

Topic	Comment
Litter in our Communities / Illegal Dumping	Talks in progress
Te Reo o te Kāinga. Hore he Painga.	Attended the hikoi among our hapori. It was a beautiful event full of community members, politicians and schools. It was a testament to the growing commitment by many to te reo Māori.
Development Contributions	The proposed FNDC_Development_Contributions_Projects_Summary identifies 24 growth-related infrastructure projects across water supply, stormwater, wastewater, and transport. Total capital expenditure is estimated at $178.36 million, with $77.69 million funded through development contributions. Most investment is directed toward water and wastewater network, treatment, storage, and growth-related transport upgrades.
Rangatahi Action Council	As at 26 August, 22 rangatahi across the 3 wards had applied to be part of the Rangatahi Action Council.
Mayors Taskforce for Jobs	Unemployment rate in Te Hiku o te Ika is one of the highest for rangatahi. MTfJ is one pathway to support rangatahi into employment. I received profiles of five rangatahi pursuing career pathways across roading, infrastructure, transport, engineering, hospitality, beauty, and trades. Key themes included access to training, licensing, work experience, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities. I am committed to

	continued advocacy for local procurement, rangatahi employment targets, contractor capacity building, and industry partnerships remains a focus to support sustainable employment outcomes.
Enabling Local Procurement	Met with our CE and staff to address systemic barriers within Council to enabling local procurement. Discussions are underway while seeking feedback from local contractors and SMEs within our district.
BOI Watchdogs	Following up on community feedback received after the 27 August Council meeting, I responded to a range of governance, animal management and process matters. Key updates included confirmation of Te Huia meeting dates, clarification sought on resubmitting the BOI Watchdogs complaint, support for consistent recognition of external committee members, and information on Independent Commissioner costs and appointments. Animal management matters discussed included hearing processes, open resolutions relating to dog and cat covenants, dog rehoming and identification initiatives, and a reported 2024 Animal Management incident. Several matters remain under investigation, with further information and updates to be provided as available.
Pou Herenga Tai – Hapū Representative	Supported Pou Herenga Tai in finding a hapū representative to sit on their board.
Old Kaikohe Library	Following up from our Te Koukou hui and following the instructions to email our questions to be answered on this kaupapa, my questions that I didn't see answered in the report are: • What is the cost to subdivide the parcel of land to be able to sell the library? • There is a massive loss between depreciation and market lease. What real impact does this difference have on rate payers?
Kaikohe Park Reserve	I continue to request updates on this kaupapa.

Portfolio Update: Kokako

Kōkako – Youth Education & Leadership Pathway (YELPP) Portfolio Update

The Kōkako – Youth Education & Leadership Pathway portfolio continues to progress key initiatives focused on strengthening youth participation, leadership development, civic engagement, and employment pathways for rangatahi across the Far North.

Rangatahi Action Council recruitment was underway, with applications open through August. Early interest was encouraging, with 14 applications received, although there was a strong concentration from Te Hiku. Additional promotion was undertaken to improve representation from Bay of Islands-Whangaroa and Kaikohe-Hokianga. The portfolio remains focused on achieving district-wide representation and aligning the activation of the Youth Action Council with Long Term Plan timeframes to support sustainable resourcing and meaningful engagement.

Youth Participation Strategy implementation planning is progressing. Discussions have focused on identifying engagement points with existing youth-focused organisations and ensuring Council supports, connects, and strengthens existing community-led initiatives rather than duplicating work already being undertaken. Reporting mechanisms, measurable outcomes, and success indicators are being incorporated into implementation planning, alongside opportunities to improve coordination across youth-serving organisations throughout the district.

A key highlight was the **E Tū Rangatahi Innovation Lab**, held on 6 August at Ngāwhā Innovation Park. The event attracted 80 attendees, including 48 rangatahi, and showcased innovative youth-led ideas focused on environmental outcomes, wellbeing, civic participation, employment, housing, and community development. Partnerships with organisations including the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education Commission, Healthy Families Far North, ĀKAU, Te Hiku Iwi Development and Moko Foundation have led to ongoing commitments to support youth development pathways.

Work is also continuing on **rangatahi employment and training pathways**, including discussions through the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs and opportunities to strengthen social procurement outcomes. Particular focus is being given to connecting Council procurement and contractor requirements with employment, training, and development opportunities for local rangatahi. Social procurement principles were demonstrated through the E Tū Rangatahi event, where approximately 20 percent of event expenditure was directed through social procurement approaches.

The portfolio is also progressing **Mana Mokopuna Safe and Ethical Practice training** for relevant staff and incoming Youth Action Council members, supporting a safe and strengths-based approach to youth participation and engagement.

Overall, the portfolio is transitioning from strategy and programme design into implementation, with significant activity underway to establish the Rangatahi Action Council, embed the Youth Participation Strategy, strengthen youth leadership pathways, and create stronger links between civic participation, education, employment, and community development opportunities for rangatahi.

Training / Conference Attendance

Name of Event: Introduction to the RMA Course

Date of Event: 17 September 2026

Learnings: Resource Management Act

Value for the organisation: Exrtremely valuable to enable good decision making.