

Paenga-whāwhā April 2024

Kia ora Far North whānau!

During the final weekend of April, a dawn ceremony officially named and opened a new multi-sports complex at Lindvart Park in Kaikohe. This community-led project was years in the making and is one of three sports hubs being built in the Far North. Te Hiku Sports Hub in Kaitiāia is due to open soon, and work on Te Puāwaitanga – Bay of Islands Sports Hub is underway.

Each will provide high-quality facilities that encourage people to participate in sports and recreational activities, fostering community connections and improving the health of our people. Our communities have driven these projects with the council providing funding through our Long Term Plans.

The Long Term Plan (LTP) sets out what we propose to do and how we plan to pay for it. The government is allowing our council to produce an LTP that covers the next three years instead of the usual 10-year plan. This recognises the challenges we face recovering from severe weather events in 2022-23.



The government is allowing eight councils, including Far North District Council, to produce LTPs that cover three years instead of the usual 10 years.

As well as those unbudgeted infrastructure costs, we are grappling with spiralling inflation, increased contractor costs, and uncertainty over our three waters assets. As leaders for our communities, we are acutely aware of cost pressures faced by Far Northerners. We've debated long and hard how to keep council rates to a minimum.

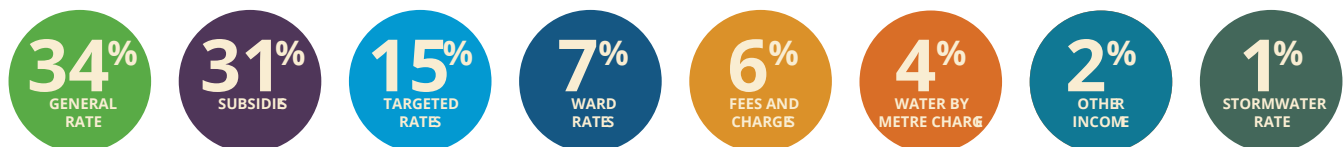
This LTP includes a total rates increase of 16.5 per cent for 2024/25, then 7.9 per cent

for 2025/26 and 4.6 per cent in the third year of the LTP. This is historically high for us but on par with many other councils.

This LTP focuses on repairing our roads. We propose spending significantly more on this than on any other fixed assets. Between 2024-29, we have forecast spending of \$328 million on road renewals and new works. That compares to \$268 million on wastewater, \$168 million on water supplies and \$39 million on stormwater.

Where does our revenue come from?

Council operational expenditure for the three-year period is proposed to be funded on average, 60% from rates (including targeted water), and 40% from other revenue including user fees and charges and subsidies. In addition, we are budgeting for funding from government subsidies to support capital expenditure.



We have other proposals we need community feedback on. These are:

- Changing the way council charges stormwater rates across the district
- Changing the way water and wastewater services are rated
- Changing how the council delivers community services.

While our transport network will be the spending priority over the next three years, we cannot ignore other services that make the Far North a place people want to visit and live in. Lindvart Park is just one example that will positively impact the lives of people in Kaikohe and beyond long after our current cost of living crisis and high inflation rates are in the past.

We released a public consultation document on our LTP proposals on 26 March and are seeking your feedback until Sunday 28 April. You can do that via our Have Your Say webpage or fill in a printed form at a council service centre near you. Council will meet to deliberate on your feedback on 20 and 23 May. We aim to adopt the final LTP 2024-29 on 26 June.

Kia kaha Far North, we know this is a tough time and rely on your voice to help our decisions around our Long Term Plan! — Kahika Moko Tepania.

Online map details council slip repairs

An online mapping tool developed by Northland's three district councils shows at-a-glance repair plans for 195 remaining slips (85 in the Far North) still affecting district roads following a series of severe weather events that hit the region.

The Northland slip repair map uses a 'pin' to show the exact location of each slip affecting council-maintained roads in the wake of the 2022-23 storms. Clicking on a pin reveals details on the slip type, its size, the repairs required, and whether these are in planning, investigation, design or construction stages. Completion times and completed slips are also included.



Far North Kahika Moko Tepania says the Northland local road network suffered approximately \$89 million worth of damage from weather events. An estimated \$41 million occurred in the Far North with repairs worth around \$15 million now completed.

"We are still working on 85 sites. Some sites are very complex with significant engineering, planning and funding questions to resolve before contractors can start on repairs. The reality is it will take another year or more to begin some."



A major slip that occurred on West Coast Road in August 2022.

The Northland slip repair map was created in-house by the three councils and uses data provided by the Northland Transportation Alliance (NTA) on roads maintained by the three councils. The NTA is a collaboration between Northland councils and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to deliver roading and transportation services in Northland.

Information on slips affecting the state highway network can be found on the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency website.

Repair progress for West Coast roads

Progress on repairs to West Coast roads hard-hit by Cyclone Gabrielle and other weather events can now be tracked on the West Coast roads repairs council webpage.

Completed emergency works on slips, as well as road inspections and planned general maintenance on roads around towns such as Panguru, Kohukohu and Broadwood are outlined on the page. Repairs include rock wall installations, repaired culverts, as well as drainage and pavement repairs.

The Northland Transportation Alliance is grouping repairs into three phases. Phase 1: initial response; Phase 2: minor recovery works (the current focus of the webpage); and Phase 3: major recovery works.

Phase 2 repairs generally cost under \$100,000 per site. The goal is to restore roads to their previous condition. Each requires an application to Waka Kotahi and funding approval.

Repairs at Broadwood, Mangamuka, Herekino, two sites in Kohukohu and Runaruna Road have been completed.

Cable Bay path extends pedestrian options

A new half kilometre-long footpath linking pedestrians to State Highway 10 at Cable Bay was completed on Friday 29 March. The footpath is one of several planned across the Far North over the coming months.

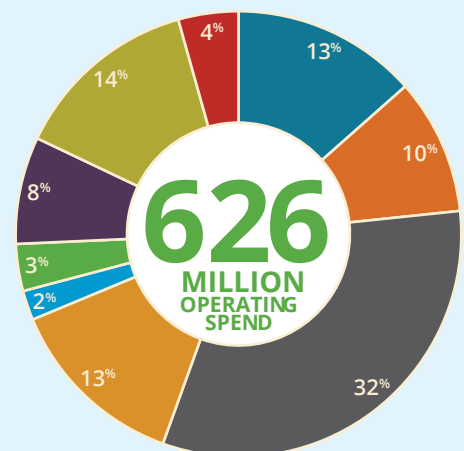
The 1.8m wide path covers a distance of 590m and runs along Cable Bay Block Road from the intersection with State Highway 10 to Pekama Drive. The work included new kerbing and a wooden guard rail.

Another footpath in Te Hiku is planned for Ahipara this financial year. The Takahe footpath will run from Kaka Street towards the Kaitiā Golf Club. The full length of the footpath will be determined by the remaining budget available.

Two other footpaths are planned in Haruru and Russell, with work due to begin in April.

FNDC operating spend (\$ million over three years)

- District Facilities
- Environmental Management
- Roading & Footpaths
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Solid Waste Management
- Water Supply
- Other*
- Strategic Relationships



* Other includes Governance Administration, Planning and Policy, Drainage, Community and Engagement.



To have your say on the LTP, visit fndc.govt.nz