

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Green light for Kaikohe Library design

It's official — the new Kaikohe Library and Civic Hub is one step closer to becoming a reality after detailed design plans were presented to and approved by the project steering group on Monday 3 March.

The impressive designs will provide a transformative facility for Kaikohe, located at the intersection of Broadway and Raihara Street. As part of the approval process, members of the steering group visited the site to get a sense of the scale and scope of the project.

This significant milestone will be followed by finalising detailed designs, applying for building and resource consent, and then a tender process to select a contractor for the landmark build.

A team of architects, landscape architects and designers, including Kaikohe's own ĀKAU design studio, worked on the plans after consultation with the community. Design workshops gathered feedback from 1045 respondents, including taitamariki from five local schools and Ngā Hapū o Kaikohekohe, a collective of six hapū in Kaikohe.



The new facility will transform the corner of Broadway and Raihara St.



Six Kaikohe hapū have participated in design workshops for the hub.



The design has been aligned with cultural values and local priorities.



Next steps will be to finalise designs and select a contractor.

Kahika Moko Tepania first revealed a preliminary design for the multi-purpose facility at the State of the Far North Address in November last year.

This exciting project is due for completion in 2026.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Taipā Point parking improves



Improved parking facilities at Taipā Point should be ready by Easter.

Construction is underway to upgrade carparking around the boat ramp at Taipā Point. Work will include creating wheelchair accessible parks and designated boat trailer parks, as well as improve public toilet facilities. The aim is to enhance the area for both residents and visitors and make parking more accessible.

Council contractor, Far North Roading, is working on-site and has closed the construction area to traffic. However, the boat ramp and another parking area will remain accessible during work with a priority give-way system in place to manage traffic. The work is scheduled to finish in time for the Easter holidays.

The protection of Pohutukawa trees on Taipā Point is also a priority. The condition of the trees has been negatively impacted by water pooling around root systems and the weight of parked vehicles. The addition of soakage pits and rain gardens as part of the works will mitigate the impact of stormwater to the trees and reserve.

These upgrades are paid for by the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) as part of remedial works to Taipā beachfront. This project is being undertaken in conjunction with the Taipā Placemaking Plan, which is focused on upgrading the existing waterfront.

FNDC condemns online racism



Mayor Tepania is committed to fostering an inclusive community.

Far North Mayor Moko Tepania has expressed council concerns over increasing numbers of objectionable and often racist comments on social media, including the council's Facebook page.

Kahika Tepania noted that recent posts had "garnered a lot of attention". His comments were in relation to a post promoting funding opportunities for event organisers wishing to celebrate Matariki. The council turned off comments after a flood of negative remarks. Kahika Tepania added that while it is great to see people engaging with the council, racist comments will not be tolerated.

"We wholeheartedly welcome community feedback," said Kahika Tepania. "However, our council will not tolerate bullying, racism, or personal attacks of any kind. We are committed to fostering an inclusive community where everyone feels safe, valued, and respected."

Group Manager - Community and Engagement, Ruben Garcia, acknowledged that social media has increasingly become a channel for individuals to express negative, ill-informed, or bullying remarks — often anonymously — but the council remains steadfast in ensuring digital spaces are free of harmful and hateful material.

Far North making the grade



Around 200km of unsealed roads will be graded in coming months.

An estimated 200km of unsealed roads in the Far North will have grading work carried out over the next few months.

Grading around the district has already begun. Around 50kms, involving more than 60 roads, will be worked on over the coming weeks.

Once the cooler autumn season kicks in, grading work will increase across the Far North. This will include pothole repair, and reintegrating metal cast aside by traffic back into the road, as well as the application of new metal, drainage maintenance, signage and vegetation control.

There are certain times of the year when grading has the greatest benefit. The best time is when the road is damp, which helps compact the road to a dense surface. Spring and autumn are ideal. Motorists should always drive to the conditions as the roads can change rapidly.

Important consultations are open now

Tell us what you think at fndc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

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